

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to **FIG. 1B** . Specifically, reference numbers “110A”, “120A”, “130A”, “140A”, and “160A” were amended to “110B”, “120B”, “130B”, “140B”, and “160B”. Instances reciting “Multiple X” were amended to “Multiplex”

Attachment: Replacement sheet

**REMARKS**

In this amendment changes were made to the specification and figures. Regarding the figures the amendment to change “Multiple X” to “Multiplex” merely corrects a typographical error in the figures as the specification clearly refers to these elements as Multiplex Section Layer 136B, 146B, 156B, and 166B. The amendment in the figures to change reference numbers “110A”, “120A”, “130A”, “140A”, and “160A” to “110B”, “120B”, “130B”, “140B”, and “160B” also corrects a typographical error, bringing the convention of the reference numbers in line with the rest of **FIG. 1B** (i.e. “B” after the reference number instead of “A”). Neither of these amendments constitutes new matter.

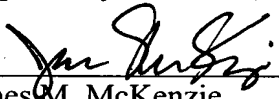
In this amendment changes were also made to the specification. Three sentences were added to the description of the prior art SDH architecture depicted in **Fig. 1B**. These sentences merely add description of elements 110B, 120B, 130B, 140B, 150B, and 160B in the prior art SDH architecture depicted in **FIG. 1B** that correspond to the equivalent portions in the SONET architecture in **FIG. 1A**. This amendment does not constitute new matter as the elements were already depicted in the figures and were discussed as corresponding features to the SONET architecture in the SDH architecture. Furthermore, the SDH system elements being described are part of the previously existing SDH architecture which is clearly labeled as “Prior Art” in the figures. Thus, the amendment to the specification is not new matter as the text being added is merely further description of a prior art system.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments